

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

MMO-01 CU-02 /063 W

----- 053382

R 061450Z JUL 76

FM AMCONSUL ZAGREB

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3853

INFO USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SCUL, YO

SUBJECT: TENTH ANNUAL AMERICAN TAMBURITZAN FESTIVAL IN ZAGREB

1. THE TENTH ANNUAL JUNIOR TAMBURITZAN FESTIVAL OF THE CROATIAN FRATERNAL UNION OF AMERICA WAS HELD IN ZAGREB FROM JULY 1 THROUGH 5, 1976, THE FIRST TIME IN YUGOSLAVIA FOR THIS FESTIVAL.

2. SPONSORED BY THE CROATIAN EMIGRANTS HEADQUARTERS (MATICA ISELJENIKA HRVATSKE) MD THE OCCASION OF THE US BICENTENNIAL, THE OFFICIAL FESTIVAL OPENING TOOK PLACE JULY 2, BEFORE A FULL HOUSE OF 1800 PEOPLE AT ZAGREB'S CONCERT HALL, VATROSLAV LISINSKI. FOUR OF THE US JUNIOR TAMBURITZAN GROUPS AND ONE GROUP FROM YUGO-

S VIA PERFORMED FOR THE ENTHUSIASTIC AUDIENCE. SPEAKERS AT THE OPENING CEREMONIES INCLUDED VICE-PRESIDENT OF CROATIA MIRKO BOZIC AND CG HERBERT KAISER, WHO WAS QUOTED IN THE ZAGREB DAILY, "VJESNIK," JULY 4, AS FOLLOWS: "I AM DELIGHTED BY THIS VISIT OF AMERIVFUNS OF YUGOSLAV ORIGIN, WHO ARE A PART, BUT AN IMPORTANT PART OF OUR SOCIETY. THIS VISIT TO YUGOSLAVIA IN THE YEAR OF OUR BICENTENNIAL IS OF SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE; IT IS THE OCCASION FOR REMEMBERING OUR DEVOTION TO AMERICAN PRINCIPLES, IDEALS, AND HOPES -- FOR FREEDOM AND INDEPENDANCE OF THE INDIVIDUAL." THE PROGRAM WAS REPEATED WITH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EQUAL SUCCESS SATURDAY NIGHT, JULY 3, WITH FOUR OTHER US GROUPS

AND ANOTHER YUGOSLAV GROUP.

3. EARLIER FRIDAY, ZAGREB MAYOR IVO VRHOVEC HOSTED A NOON RECEPTION FOR ALL THE AMERICAN VISITORS.

4. ON SATURDAY, JULY 3, PRESIDENT OF THE CROATIAN PRESIDENCY, JAKOV BLAZEVIC, HOSTED A RECEPTION FOR THE OFFICERS OF THE CROATIAN FRATERNAL UNION, HONORING THE US BICENTENNIAL. AMONG THE IMPORTANT OFFICIALS PRESENT WAS JOSIP VRHOVEC, MEMBER OF THE PRESIDUM OF THE LCY, BLAZEVIC READ A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT TITO ADDRESSED TO THE TENTH ANNUAL JUNIOR TAMBURITZAN FESTIVAL, IN WHICH HE SAID: " LOOK UPON YOU PROUDLY. YOU ARE NOBLY CARRYING OUT THE MISSION OF SPREADING BROTHERHOOD AND UNITY AMONG OUR EMIGRANTS AND ARE BUILDING A BRIDGE LEADING TO BROAD CULTURAL COOPERATION BETWEEN YUGOSLAVIA AND THE US, YOUR NEW HOMELAND." FRONT PAGE COVERAGE IN "VJESNIK," JULY 4, WAS GIVEN BOTH TO TITO'S MESSAGE AND TO THE RECEPTION.

5. ISUNDAY MORNING, JULY 4, A SPECIAL TAMBURITZAN MASS AT THE ZAGREB CATHEDRAL WAS CELEBRATED. THE SERMON IN CROATIAN AND ENGLISH ALLUDED TO DIFFICULTIES EXPERIENCED BY THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN YUGOSLAVIA TODAY AND STRESSED TIES LINKING CROATIANS AT HOME AND ABROAD.

6. AT 1000 HOURS, A PARADE OF THE US TAMBURITZAN GROUPS BEGAN AT VATRSLAV LISINSKI CONCERT HALL, ENDING AT REPUBLIC SQUARE. IN THE HEART OF ZAGREB, THERE A THOUSAND PEOPLE GATHERED TO WATCH IN SWELTERING HEAT FOR 85 MINUTES THE GROUPS' PERFORMANCES.

7. PRESS COVERAGE OF THE EVENTS WAS EXCELLENT: TWO DOZEN ARTICLES, SOME FULL-PAGE WITH PICTURES, APPEARED IN THE TWO LEADING ZAGREB DAILIES, "VJESNIK" AND "VEČERNJI LIST," MANY LINKING THE TENTH ANNUAL TAMBURITZAN FESTIVAL VISIT TO CROATIA WITH THE US CELEBRATION OF ITS BICENTENNIAL.

8. THE ABOVE EVENTS CLIMAXED VISITS BY THE TAMBURITZAN GROUPS TO OTHER PARTS OF YUGOSLAVIA, INCLUDING SERBIA, MACEDONIA, MONTENEGRO, AND BOSNIA. KAISER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ZAGREB00559
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760263-0265
From: ZAGREB
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760786/aaaacxwe.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 MAY 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <13 SEP 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TENTH ANNUAL AMERICAN TAMBURITZAN FESTIVAL IN ZAGREB
TAGS: PFOR, SCUL, YO, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006